



The Church of Bangladesh

# Special Bulletin

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The Chairman of the Board of Trustee and Moderator of the Church of Bangladesh delivered the following message on the re-opening ceremony of CMH- Rajshahi on the 1st February 2021.

## Moderator's Speech

### Opening Ceremony of Christian Mission Hospital Rajshahi, 1 Feb 2021



Respected Chief Guest, Special Guests, Bishops of Barishal and Kushtia Dioceses of Church of Bangladesh, Bishop of Rajshahi Catholic Diocese, Various Government Officials, Consultants and doctors, representatives of various media and TV channels, pastors and officials of Church of Bangladesh representing various church bodies, partners of Christian Mission Hospitals and local elites. Respected Guests and all ... Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a tremendous opportunity for me as I feel privileged this moment to stand in front of you, in this very special gathering, in the historically important and precious land of Rajshahi in the north of Bangladesh, especially today. Today is a red-letter day, the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the month of February. It is the greatest and the saddest month of our national history that highlights the supreme sacrifice of some valiant souls, Salam, Barkat, Rafik and others. I would remember the martyrs of language movement with due respect.

And this is a special year for us too .. the year 2021 .. that commemorates 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of independence of our country. Today I would also remember all those 'shahids' who laid their lives for our country and would pay utmost homage to all of them.

On this day I would also bring my greetings to all of you, as Moderator of Church of Bangladesh and Bishop of Dhaka, and also as Chairman of the Board of Trustee of Christian Mission Hospital Rajshahi.

My heart is full of joy as I look out this time at the Grand Re-opening Ceremony of Christian Mission Hospital Rajshahi. As Moderator of Church of Bangladesh, I must say this is a time of special celebration as well as it is a time for us to express our utmost thankfulness to many many people who had been with us in this long journey.

First of all I would remember the Lord God who had been immensely merciful to all of us in Church of Bangladesh, over the years. He poured His astounding blessings upon this hospital too. His Grace remained upon many people including international missionaries and national doctors, nurses and health workers and others who had been involved in serving beneficiaries here over the years.

This hospital was founded in the year 1926. It is about 95 years. It is not a tiny fraction of time. In 1926, definitely Rajshahi and the surroundings were not like what we see today. Definitely the socio-cultural picture that time represented something like a stratum of illiterate, superstitious, modest, local poor population with 'no' modernization, no good roads and a locality stricken by severe poverty and famines here. It is obvious that there were no standard and adequate clinical facilities as required by common people. In that time of British colonial rules, a few foreign Missionaries, coming over from Presbyterian Church of United Kingdom, had their dream in their hearts and they wanted to stand by the side of the people of this area and they planted their dreams here. With whatever capacities they had, they started this health facility. And their endeavor received admiration of the local community at that time. And people suffering from diseases and clinical ailments

started to come to receive the treatment. Those dreams of the UK Missionaries bloomed to the level of an institutional health care and hospital service, the Christian Mission Hospital, Rajshahi.

In the journey over the last 95 years, there were many ups and downs, but it did not stop. Many people came forward following those missionaries and they became involved in services here. And with their collective efforts, the Christian Mission Hospital is at this level now. Now as we are about to inaugurate and open modernized hospital, the Christian Mission Hospital, Rajshahi, I would salute those UK Presbyterian Missionaries whom we still remember and whose dreams and mantle we still bear in our hearts.

After those UK Missionaries left, it is the Church of Bangladesh, the renowned Christian denomination of Bangladesh, who took over the charge of Christian Mission Hospital at Rajshahi. We are immensely fortunate to be in this role. Currently Christian Mission Hospital Rajshahi is the biggest health program of our Church ministry.

In the past years I remember Christian Mission Hospital Rajshahi received support from many international communities too. They included organizations like Methodist Church of UK, the Presbyterian Church of USA, Japan Christian Community, Kristiansand of Norway, etc. As we stand here today, we feel highly grateful to each of them for their love, dedication and support for this hospital.

I remember many renowned local people served in this hospital in the past, especially Dr Upendra Nath Malakar and Dr Mrs. Mina Malakar. There were also a bunch of health staff that worked here relentlessly over the years. They added all their love, commitment and expertise to develop the clinical backup here and the hospital was able to flourish in multi-level care and attained a glorious time for its services in northern part of Bangladesh, especially the maternity and normal delivery services here. Many renowned dignitaries in Rajshahi were born in this hospital. Even today I believe there are people sitting in this gathering, who remember and depend on this hospital for their family's treatment.

Initially since inception in 1926 Christian Mission Hospital Rajshahi provided clinical services only, to patients of various categories. But right after the independence, in the year of 1973, the Hospital started Nursing Institute and in 1992 it further diversified its activities as it added Community Health and Primary Health Care Programme (PHC).

At this very auspicious time of grand opening of this hospital, I express my heart-felt gratefulness, as Moderator of Church of Bangladesh and on behalf of the Board of Trustees of this hospital, to all those who supported us with their unique leadership quality, namely Bishop B. D. Mondol, Bishop Michael Baroi and Bishop Paul Shishir Sarkar. With deep gratitude I also remember those expatriates who helped us abundantly in the past, especially I would name Dr Leslie Young Morgan and Dr Cynthia Morgan.

The Christian Mission Hospital Rajshahi is currently a licensed hospital. It is governed by an independent Board of Trustees (BOT) nominated by Church of Bangladesh Synod. The ultimate goal of this institution is :

1. Compassionate care for all people seeking help
2. Highest possible quality and range of hospital services
3. Promotion of healthy living to all levels of hospital beneficiaries and
4. Capacity development for young girls and boys paving their way to become compassionate and trained nurses

Over the past years, the Christian Mission Hospital Rajshahi played major and substantial role and contributed in Bangladesh achieving the overall Millennium Development Goals (MDG), especially in health related targets like reducing infant and maternal mortality rate and decreasing the prevalence of underweight children below 5 years of age. Over the years this hospital helped in creating community awareness through its Primary Health Care Programme by disseminating health related information and promoting safe health practice and by participating in immunization program of the government of Bangladesh.

But in the recent years, Christian Mission Hospital Rajshahi could not keep pace with the modern medical science and hence the patients started to decrease in number in this hospital. There were different reasons for that. One of them was obviously the infrastructure of the hospital that looked ancient and that could not be upgraded and that made this hospital somewhat non professional and non patient-friendly. We also failed to improve the hospital's clinical service quality by installing appropriate and modern instruments and apparatus and techniques. On one hand the foreign donations, that had so long been life-line for this hospital, declined but on the other hand we also tried to maintain its charity model of services. We subsidized for this hospital. Perhaps it was our own shortcoming in taking appropriate and timely policy level decision. And with all these challenges and set-backs, this hospital continued but it never stopped.

The year 2020 was another challenging one for Christian Mission Hospital Rajshahi. The deadly pandemic caused by a tiny organism, a novel corona virus, originated from animal species of China, hit the world and the humankind passed through an unprecedented time. Bangladesh also faced the same problem. In Bangladesh the first case of COVID 19 was diagnosed on March 8, 2020. The new cases swelled in number and the initial days were very frightening with widespread lockdowns, shutting of offices, institutions, bazaars, public transports etc. At that time the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare was also much concerned to take appropriate clinical measures to combat this situation and save people's lives.

In the middle of that in early April 2020 the Church of Bangladesh (COB) received a call from the government health official at Rajshahi; that call was to make Christian Mission Hospital (CMH) a dedicated corona hospital, in partnership with the government. This request was quite sudden, a bit 'unexpected' too for Church of Bangladesh.

But considering the national emergency, Church of Bangladesh (COB) immediately responded positively to this humanitarian call. In the year 2020, this hospital suspended all its normal clinical activities and continued as dedicated corona hospital in Rajshahi for a period of five months, from mid-April to September. We the whole community and ministry of Church of Bangladesh consider it a unique opportunity for us as we could respond to a national crisis.

The question of renovating and upgrading Christian Mission Hospital came right after COVID 19 services were over here, in September 2020. This was indeed a long term community need too. But for the hospital's Board of Trustees (BOT) it was a challenging decision to suspend hospital's clinical services for another three or more months' period. It also involved a huge expenditure to undertake such renovation. But we did not stop and we took the challenge and we showed our courage, even in the days of corona, thinking this would largely add value to our ministry and re-mould the future of the hospital. Bishop Right Rev. Shourabh Pholia of Barishal Diocese and Bishop Right Rev Hemen Halder of Kushtia Diocese of Church of Bangladesh were largely involved and they supported us in taking this critical and timely decision. My sincere thanks to both of them.

We undertook extensive improvement plan that included structural renovation, landscape planning and beautification and clinical facility upscaling with modernization of hospital's program outline. We fervently hope this outcome of renovation would facilitate patient-friendly efficient, professional and quality clinical care, bringing more facilities for people of Rajshahi in future. It will increase overall work-place security, enhance government compliance with women and children prioritization. It will help in in-house critical care facilities. Further we hope it will enhance hospital self-sustainability. I am grateful to all members of the Board of Trustee of this hospital for such timely and appropriate decision. I would give my sincere thanks to Mr. Prodig Chand Mondal, who recently took over the charge of CEO of the hospital and who worked very hard during last three months for this hospital. I would also thank Medical Director Dr David Khan, Convener of BOT Local Working Committee Mr. Lorance Mondol, Convener of Hospital Development Committee Dr Henry Sandip Mondol, Convener of Nursing Academic Committee Dr Elizabeth Keya Mondol, Accountant of the Hospital Mr. Clement Arun Mondol and newly appointed Principal of Nursing Institute Ms Sulota Drong. My thanks are due for the whole bunch of people, a team of our staff at Rajshahi, who worked day and night, to accomplish all these improvements and renovation through their dedication and hard work.

Currently Christian Mission Hospital Rajshahi targets to work relentlessly to be with the common needy people of Rajshahi. We look forward to working to contribute in the health sector of Bangladesh and to achieving the Sustainable Development Goal, especially Sustainable Goal No 3 that indicates "Good Health and Well Being for all". In order to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages, Church of Bangladesh and Christian Mission Hospital both are always committed in its entire services and activities and priorities. And it will remain the same in future too.

Today is a very special day for me. Let me dedicate this hospital, as Moderator of Church of Bangladesh and Chairman of this institution, to your hand today. Let it be your hospital in the days to come. It landmarks a new journey for us. It indicates the hospital's future. Christian Mission Hospital Rajshahi always served in the spirit of Love of God and let it continue to do so.

My sincere thanks to the Chief Guest today and to all other special guests, Bishops, clergymen and pastors, consultants and doctors, local elites and representatives of print and online media and every participants, who love us and who stand for us. My thanks to those who organized the functions today and who worked hard day and night and who supported us continuously.

May God profusely bless all of you.



# CMHR Re-opening Ceremony



**Re**-opening of Rajshahi Mission Hospital in a new form after reciting the Holy Quran, the Holy Gita and reciting the Holy Bible on a beautiful morning on February 1, 2021, Rev. Simson Mazumder offered special prayers at the inauguration ceremony of Rajshahi Mission Hospital.



Earlier, at 10 am, a huge rally with musical instruments from the Nursing Institute gate of the hospital crossed the Church Gate adhering to the Rajshahi Zoo turned around and ended at the hospital gate. Hon'ble Moderator Bishop Samuel S Mankhin and Rajshahi City Mayor Mr. A H M Khairuzzaman Liton were present on the occasion. They were accompanied by Hon'ble Bishop of Kushtia Diocese Hemen Halder, Hon'ble Bishop of Catholic Church of Rajshahi Diocese Gervas Rozario, Honorable priests of Church of Bangladesh, hospital staff including doctors, nurses, incoming guests,

and others. D I G Abdul Baten Rajshahi Range, Civil Surgeon Dr. Md. Abdul Kayum, R M P Commissioner Abul Kalam Siddik was kindly present on the occasion.

The CEO of the hospital Prodip Chand Mondal thanked everyone for coming to the event and pray for its journey to achieve it's sustainability. He said- "I believe that there are 3 words' good, good and good. Good to see, if the fragrance is good, its inner work will be good. then you will like this organization.



*Welcoming the guest*



*Cutting ribbon by the City Mayor*



*Inauguration by the Moderator*





*Civil Surgeon Dr. Md. Abdul Kayum*



*Bishop of Catholic Church of Rajshahi Diocese Gervas Rozario*



*CEO- Prodig Chand Mondal*



*Praying together*

Md. Afzal Hossain, the professor of the city's Teacher Training College, said, "The hospital has been modernized like magic; so I urge you all to cooperate with them so that they can serve the people of the region through this hospital. I am very optimistic about that."

"Synod Secretary Rev. John Probhudan Hira congratulated all those present and said, "Thank you honorable Moderator for taking big dreams and big initiatives. We should work together with the honorable Moderator to make the hospital delighted again," he said.

Hon'ble Civil Surgeon of the district said, "The environment makes people feel good, the environment of this hospital is very beautiful, I hope the quality of service of the hospital will be the same". Mrs. Monita Mankhin greeted everyone and said, "spring is blowing in this hospital again, from now on it will be full of flowers and fruits again; "Everyone will work together to bring the hospital back to it's former glory." Mr. Paul Subrata Malakar greeted everyone and said, "Thank you and thank you to all who have worked tirelessly for this initiative." Mr. Tarun Mondol sincerely thanked the Moderator for his noble initiative. "Our Moderator not only dreams for himself but also for us to dream, he moves forward with us," he said. Medical Director David Khan thanked the honorable Moderator and CEO Mr. Prodig Chand Mondal. "We have a big challenge ahead of us," he said. "Service means we can get to the forefront." Rajshahi City Church senior member Mr. Basit Hembrom wished the hospital prosperity and thanked the Moderator for this innovativeness.

Gervas Rozario, the honorable bishop of the Catholic Church of the Rajshahi Diocese, thanked everyone and said, "We need to find a way to sustainability, to the glory of God and human service." "Patient's right to service, we have to give it to establish justice in society," he added. Honorable Bishop of Kushtia Diocese Hemen Halder greeted all. He sincerely thanked all those who worked tirelessly for it's revival. "If you want to leave a mark on earth, you need to do more than just take responsibility; if everyone is cooperative then the hospital can do that, then the hospital will definitely move forward." Rajshahi Divisional DIG said, "The contribution of this hospital in human service is undeniable". He wished success to his future dreams. The Honorable Moderator read his written statement. It is distributed among all those present in printed format. The two-hour-long program of dance, song, and poetry was comprised of the speeches of the distinguished guests. The event was a very lively and lively affair. Mr. Lorance Mondol and Baishakhi Mondal conducted the program. The event ended with fellowship lunch.

## *Message of the Chief Executive Officer*



The reputation of this hospital in Rajshahi has been going on for almost a hundred years. Many famous people have been born here, this is the truth of most of the family members or their relatives in Rajshahi city. For many reasons, I feel incompetent. In fact, it is not easy to perform here, because those who have worked before me have worked and served in this institute with a huge sacrifice, commitment, and love for the people and hospital. These are incomparable and we are proud of them. Today we are honored for their service. Many of us know them even today.

Over the last several years, for various reasons, this hospital has not been able to stay at the top due to the era of technology and better service in the modern age. Others have advanced quite a bit in the modern era for technology. They are using modern-day science discoveries and technologies in healthcare. We fell backward. There is no way open to survive in the competition without keeping pace with the times. People believe in the services of this hospital but do not deny the technology. So it can be said that patients and physicians have turned their faces back a bit.

However, today I am the administrative head of this hospital. Though I am not properly skilled in this sector, I am confident that the real purpose will be achieved if we all work together. I think it is my responsibility to uphold the dignity of this place. I am trying to bring back the previous respect together. I believe it is possible to return.

We were able to renovate the hospital with the money that the government of Bangladesh gave us for using this hospital for the treatment of the corona pandemic and procured modern equipment at the expense of some profit of existing FDRs by projecting a loan from the accounts. We were able to create the facility and quality of the patient waiting area, installed the necessary tiles in most of the places. We have repaired the hospital building with bricks, cement and sand and painted which were tremendously necessary before opening it for healthcare after corona treatment. Those who have closely observed it in person will be able to compare the rationale for the repairing work.

Moreover, the dream of those who have become self-sufficient by studying and working here was to improve this institute always. We have also fulfilled the dreams of the people so that people can take the hospital in need of treatment in the modern age too.

Likewise, we have competitively hired doctors and nurses and made contracts with consulting physicians. At least 5 people competed for each position on average. Nevertheless, we believe it is still a challenge and we must tackle it and move forward to restore its reputation. We want your blessings and prayers on the challenging journey towards self-reliance by 2025.

In fine, I am grateful for trust in me to every one of the Local Working Committee of BOT, including Bishop Samuel S Mankhin, the Chairman of the BOT and Moderator of the Church of Bangladesh.

**Prodip Chand Mondal**

*CEO, Rajshahi Christian Mission Hospital*



## *Message of the Medical Director*



From 2nd of February 2021 Christian Mission Hospital Rajshahi (CMHR) is again in a position to extend its care and clinical services to the patients, after a long period of about 10 months gap.

The year 2020 was an unprecedented one for the whole humankind; the corona virus pandemic suddenly threatened and attacked millions of people and killed thousands as well. In the district of Rajshahi in north of Bangladesh, CMHR had to stop all its services since April 2020; CMHR participated at that time in a special emergency activity in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of Bangladesh; it continued as a dedicated COVID 19 Hospital for five months. Following that another four and a half month period was taken to disinfect and renovate the hospital.

1st February 2021 was the most expected day of re-opening ceremony of CMHR. That was a historically important and a red letter day too as the Bishop and Moderator of Church of Bangladesh Right Reverend Samuel Sunil Mankhin, along with other dignitaries, led the series of inaugural activities, laid the stone of inauguration and blessed this hospital. The male and female patients are now visiting CMHR like before; their numbers are increasing day by day; the hospital premises are busy again. In the current capacity the CMHR has most prominent disciplines of clinical services like maternity, gynaecology, medicine, surgery, orthopaedics, paediatrics, ENT and eye. Regular surgeries are being performed too. The hospital hopes that wider scopes of services and more clinical experts would be added to this hospital in near future.

We thank God for all His amazing grace upon us, not only for this hospital, but for everything else. We understand COVID 19 infection is in a downward trend in Bangladesh; mass vaccination has already started here. We look forward to a future when the world will see the light; we pray to God for Christian Mission Hospital Rajshahi (CMHR) too that it is again able to stand by the side of mankind in its fullest capacity, in its journey in this new phase, in the days to come.

Thank you very much for your continuous prayers for CMHR and with kind regards.

**Dr David Khan**  
*Medical Director, CMHR*

# Hospital at a Glance

"That my soul may praise thee and not be silent. O Lord my God,  
I will give thanks to thee forever." (Psalms 30:12)  
The stone was blessed and laid by  
**The Rt Rev Samuel S Mankhin**  
Moderator and Bishop of Dhaka Diocese  
on 1st February 2021  
during reopening the  
**Christian Mission Hospital, Rajshahi**  
after major renovation works.  
Honorable Bishop S Pholia, Bishop H Halder, Church leaders, parishioners and the well-wishers were present to  
resume the health service after being used the hospital for COVID-19 treatment by Government of the People's  
Republic of Bangladesh.

Stone



Admin Corridor



Canteen



CMH Nurses



Child Ward



Doctor's room

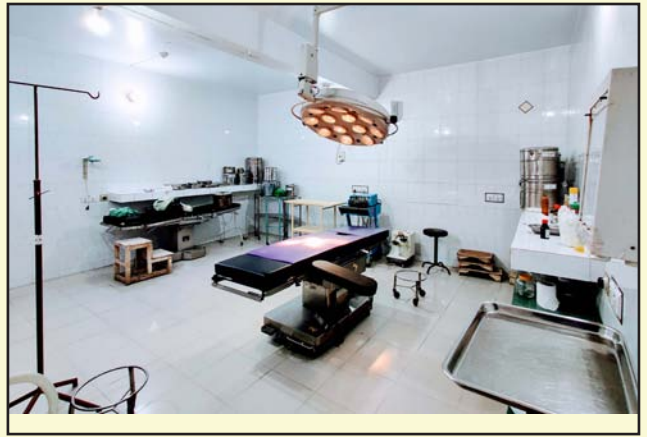


Female Ward corridor





*Eye operation theatre*



*General OT*



*A cabin near the maternity ward*



*Labour room*



*On call doctor's room*



*MD's room*



*General toilet*



*Two separate modern toilet facilities*





Reception



Veranda of Maternity Ward



Staircase



Washing area



Parking area



Doctor's list outside gate



Gardening



Garden





*Pharmacy*



*Autoclave*



*Admin area*



*1st floor veranda*



*Beds have been made*



*Busy male ward*



*Roadside view*





*Gyno*



*Lab*



*Maternity Ward*



*Orthopedic Doc room*



*Passage to the the OT*



*X-ray room*



*Environment Friendly Vegetable Garden of the Hospital*



*Frontview*





Enhanced OT capacity with light and tiles in the sitting area



Eye exam



Female Doctor Room



Front View



Hospital gate



Outlook front



Christian Mission Hospital, Rajshahi